

**REMARKS**

Claims 21-40 are pending in this application. Claims 31-40 stand withdrawn.

By this Amendment, independent claims 21 and 29 are amended to recite additional features disclosed in the specification. For example, see the specification at page 5, lines 3-14.

Claims 21, 22, 27 and 29 are also amended to obviate informalities, as the Examiner requested.

No new matter is added. Reconsideration of the application is respectfully requested.

The Office Action objects to claims 21, 22, 27 and 29. Claims 21, 22, 27 and 29 are amended, as outlined above. Accordingly, withdrawal of the objection to claims 21, 22, 27 and 29 is respectfully requested.

The Office Action rejects claims 21-30 under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) U.S. Patent No. 5,916,839 to Pak. The Office Action also rejects claims 21-30 under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) over U.S. Patent No. 6,004,521 to Miyoshi. These rejections are respectfully traversed.

Independent claims 21 and 29 are amended to recite additional features, as outlined above. In particular, claim 21 is amended to recite "wherein the alumina is contained in a coating layer, the coating layer has a composition that is different from that of the carrier, and the coating layer contains 90% or more of alumina." Claim 29 is amended to recite similar features. Pak and Miyoshi do not disclose or render obvious the subject matter recited in claims 21 and 29, as amended.

In particular, Pak does not disclose a coating layer. Thus, Pak does not disclose or render obvious "the alumina is contained in a coating layer, the coating layer has a composition that is different from that of the carrier," as recited in claim 21, and similarly recited in claim 29.

Miyoshi does not disclose or suggest the added feature. For example, in all three embodiments of Miyoshi, the amount of alumina in the coating layer appears to be about 10%. See col. 6, lines 40-44; page 7, lines 62-65; and col. 9, lines 16-19. Thus, Miyoshi does not disclose or render obvious "the coating layer contains 90% or more of alumina," as recited in claim 21 and similarly recited in claim 29.

For at least the above reasons, Pak and Miyoshi, either individually or in combination, do not disclose or render obvious the subject matter recited in claims 21 and 29, and claims 22-28 and 30 depending therefrom. Accordingly, withdrawal of the rejection of claims 21-30 under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) is respectfully requested.

In view of the foregoing, it is respectfully submitted that this application is in condition for allowance. Favorable reconsideration and prompt allowance of claims are earnestly solicited.

Should the Examiner believe that anything further would be desirable in order to place this application in even better condition for allowance, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the telephone number set forth below.

Respectfully submitted,



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